

DRAFT

Union Township Environmental Commission Minutes of the October 14, 2008 Regular Meeting

The October 14, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Union Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The notice of meeting as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier-News satisfied the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, and was also posted in the Municipal Building, on the Union Township website and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

I. Public Presentation by Princeton Hydro Re; Sidney Brook Study:

There was a presentation by Ms. Chris Altomari of Princeton Hydro regarding the Sidney Brook Watershed Study, currently ongoing. To date, the study has identified hundreds of new linear feet of Sidney Brook headwaters. The study is focused on stormwater management issues, pollution, environmentally sensitive species, etc. Currently, sampling is being undertaken. Several major stormwater erosion and sediment issues have been identified in several areas within Union Township. Stream buffer maintenance should be promoted. Identified issues need to be prioritized by the grant awardees, as funding for remediation is limited. The New Jersey Water Supply Authority has very limited funding left for their part in the project. Once the study is finalized, the goal is for the Township to pursue funding for some of the remediation efforts.

Extra copies of the report are available for public viewing upon request. The electronic files of the complete report are too large to transmit or to put upon the Union Township website. The results of the study, in overview presentation format, will be provided on the Union Township website for viewing.

Mr. Harclerode pointed out that Kathy Hale of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority will be speaking next month re: River Friendly Resident Program, for those that are interested.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Bill Harclerode, Stephen Hurford, Michele McBride, Chuck Neary, Sandy Stiger, John Wingler, Kathleen Corcoran
Public Members Present: Christine Altomari, Tim Bambridge, Marja vanOnwerkkork, Tom Apostoll, Lora Barile

III. Approval of Minutes:

Ms. McBride moved that the minutes be approved as written. Ms. Corcoran seconded. Mr. Hurford abstained as he did not read them.

IV. Old Business

1. Well Testing Day: It was decided that Mr. Wingler would head this effort with assistance of Mr. Neary and Mrs. Stiger. The testing will be in January, so that it will avoid the December Holidays and notification can be included in the next UTEC Newsletter so that residents can be prepared ahead of time. This testing will have an option for Radon and Heavy Metals, at additional cost. Monday, January 12, 2009, will be a target well water sample receipt date.

V. Correspondence:

1. A new Pilot proposal application has been submitted for review by the Township Planning Board and Environmental Commission. Ms. McBride offered to review the documents, go to the meeting and ask questions if necessary.
2. There is a program called "What's New in Septic System Technologies" on Oct. 29th at 2:00 and 6:00 pm sponsored by the County Dept. of Health in Flemington discussing PEAT systems, biofilters and other technologies, and general maintenance topics.
3. There is an NJTPA meeting to discuss the future at 7:30 am on Wed., Oct. 29?

VI. Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Ms. McBride is planning a Winter Newsletter, which will be an update to the previous newsletter. Mr. Harclerode stated that he will provide an article for the UTEC Newsletter related to noise/transportation issues and significant progress made by the multiple township group. The directory will be updated. Water testing and Township recycling changes, County hazardous waste disposal and Sidney Brook Study issues will also be discussed in the Newsletter. Property stewardship may be discussed. Mrs. Corcoran stated that she would provide info on proper medication disposal for the newsletter. Stormwater management practices may be discussed. Ms. McBride has been working to obtain advertisers for the newsletter and asked that all members also tap into local businesses that may like to pay for some low cost advertisement in the newsletter.

Open Space Committee:

1. Mr. Harclerode mentioned possibly partnering with Bethlehem Twp. to apply for a grant for this effort. ANJEC has grants available. It might be worth speaking with a municipality that's already done this. This is something to look into. Ultimately a spreadsheet will be prepared with all the relevant information.
2. There is a possibility of applying for a grant for open space effort. Per Ms. McBride, Clinton Township got a grant for this effort from State Planning Commission, per the Hunterdon County newspaper.
3. Environmental Resource Inventory is still in need up update and is on the UTEC's radar screen for future endeavors.

Property Stewardship:

1. Ms. McBride stated that her group is working on an RFP for the Hoffman House, for a rental situation. She is looking for any additional ideas and comments on suggested plans. Her idea for a potential rental (curator) situation would include repair/revitalization by the tenant-curator and a nominal rent, requiring that the renter complete certain improvements to the property. She suggested that if anybody is interested in helping out, they should attend the stewardship subcommittee meetings. Michele has investigated various scenarios, which she is looking for UTEC feedback on, the result of which will be presented to the Township Committee for their approval. An action plan will be required for this approval, including an inspection plan on the Township's part. One question is how many buildings or how much of the property should be involved in this rental process.

VII. Planning Board Report:

1. Mrs. Corcoran stated that the Pilot negotiations are ongoing; the major goal is to reduce east bound traffic to the site. A new packet of application documents was recently provided to the UTEC for review, in addition to the Planning Bd. If this is determined to be acceptable to the Planning Bd. Pilot subcommittee, this matter will be up for review by the Board at the Oct. 23 meeting.
2. Informal Presentation - The current Shell station owners are interested in a small drive-thru for donuts or other small drive-thru (previous proposal was a car wash).
3. Informal Presentation - Raritan Valley Disposal (Manella) is proposing to install diesel fueling stations on their own property, which will take up to 75 garbage trucks from going to the local diesel fueling stations along the local Frontage and Rt. 173 roadways.
4. Informal Presentation - The Lutheran Church has been purchased by St. Catherines Catholic Parish and it is currently being renovated. Expansion of the parking lot is proposed.
5. Informal Presentation - Bob Beylickyan is proposing to install a secondary small horse keeper home on his new property at the corner of Stires Way and Cooks Cross.
6. The Renaissance at Union is apparently going forward, according to the Twp. Engineer, to install utilities and infrastructure.

VIII. Transportation:

1. Mr. Harclerode stated that we have resolutions coming in from at least 10 municipalities supporting unmuffled engine braking.

2. NJ has adopted the federal standard in NJ for noise control and tested the control standards at our enforcement or weigh stations, and it was determined that it is enforceable. The NJ Effective Muffler Law can be applied to trucks, but the problem is that the fine is only \$25 currently, and for noise and smoke. Lisa Jackson of NJDEP is in support of the initiative to increase fines to \$500 for noise or smoke and we need for her to influence the NJDMV to increase the penalties.
3. The Rt. 78 paving is supposed to be ongoing and we hope to see construction any day.
4. Noise issues at the train crossing at Perryville Rd., as determined by Mr. Harclerode and Mr. Frankenbach of the Township, will cost \$50,000 to \$100,000 to make this crossing a quiet crossing (no horns) or a sound system that can be heard only a few houses away. Other issues are that the closest driveway, owned by the fertilizer company, can't be effectively moved.

IX. Adjournment:

1. The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Mrs. Corcoran, seconded by Mr. Hurford, and approved by a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Corcoran, Secretary